WEEK OF JANUARY 21, 2019

Hot List for the Washington State Senate

Members of the Legislature,

For the past 15 years, environmental groups in Washington State have organized their efforts in Olympia through the “Environmental Priorities Coalition.” Our coalition prepares a weekly Legislative “Hot List,” as a regular communication for legislators which details our positions on up to ten of our highest priority issues for the upcoming week. The purpose of this communication tool is to allow the Washington State Legislature, the Executive Branch, and media organizations to easily track the Environmental Priorities Coalition’s top priorities all session long.

As the lobbyist for Washington Conservation Voters and Washington Environmental Council, I will send this “Hot List” to you on a weekly basis. Please feel free to contact me at clifford@ctassociates.org if you have any questions.

A PDF of the Hot List can be found here – along with an archive of all Hot Lists from 2019 as the Legislative Session progresses.

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Senate Committee Action

👍 SB 5115: Concerning appliance efficiency standards.
SUPPORT
Senate Environment, Energy & Technology: Public Hearing on Wednesday, January 23rd (continuation of previous hearing)
- Sets energy and water efficiency standards for common consumer products, saving consumers money on utility bills and helping transition our energy system to a cleaner future.

👍 SB 5116: Supporting Washington's clean energy economy and transitioning to a clean, affordable, and reliable energy future (100% Clean Electricity).
SUPPORT
Senate Environment, Energy & Technology: Possible Executive Session
- One of the four environmental community priorities of 2019.
- Moves Washington away from fossil fuels and toward 100% Clean Electricity, making our state a national leader.
- A 100% Clean Electricity portfolio reduces pollution that causes climate change, expands our clean energy economy, and sets a foundation to reduce pollution from other sectors like transportation.
SB 5223: Concerning net metering (Solar Fairness Act).

SUPPORT
Senate Environment, Energy & Technology: Possible Executive Session
- Strengthens net metering standards, protects homeowners, and expands the emerging solar market in the state.
- Solar owners deserve full credit for the power they make. Unfortunately, consumers statewide are often unable to benefit fully from the generation of solar energy on their rooftops and properties because Washington has some of the weakest net metering policies in the nation.

SB 5293: Concerning energy efficiency (Clean Buildings for Washington Act).

SUPPORT
Senate Environment, Energy & Technology: Public Hearing on Wednesday, January 23rd
- Addresses the built environment, which produces 27% of Washington’s greenhouse gas emissions – our second largest source of emission.
- Creates policies that innovate our building energy codes; addresses natural gas use in homes and buildings; and spurs retrofits in large existing commercial buildings with performance standards and state incentives.

SB 5323: Relating to Reducing Pollution from Plastic Bags.

SUPPORT
Senate Environment, Energy & Technology: Public Hearing on Thursday, January 24th
- One of the four environmental community priorities of 2019.
- Creates a statewide ban on carryout plastic bags, encouraging use of recycled paper and reusable bags.
- Reduces harm to marine life, cuts down on litter, and prevents problems at recycling and composting facilities.

SB 5397: Concerning the responsible management of plastic packaging.

SUPPORT
Senate Environment, Energy & Technology: Public Hearing on Thursday, January 24th
- Creates a new system for managing plastic packaging, shifting costs off ratepayers and requiring plastic manufacturers to reduce unnecessary packaging and develop packaging that is more readily recyclable.
- Plastic packaging represents a growing environmental problem with impacts on marine environment, litter, and our recycling programs.

SB 5426: Reducing greenhouse gas emissions from hydrofluorocarbons.

SUPPORT
Senate Environment, Energy & Technology: Public Hearing on Thursday, January 24th
- Phases out the sale and use of hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), which are primarily used as refrigerants, in different applications by 2024.
HFCs are extremely potent greenhouse gases with existing alternatives for their use. HFCs are already restricted in California and were previously by the EPA.

about the coalition

The Environmental Priorities Coalition is a network of over twenty leading environmental groups in Washington State that influence policy at the state level. For over a decade, the Coalition has selected joint priority issues to work on during legislative session to help focus environmental community resources and best achieve our shared goals.